

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 015031
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:JSROY:CHG

APPROVED BY P - MR HABIB

EA/PRCM:HETHAYER

EA - MR GLEYSTEE

EA - MR HOLBROOKE

S/S - MR. SHANKLE

-----222124Z 013647 /70

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015031

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR GATES

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US, PDIP

SUBJECT: HUANG HUA DINNER WITH AMBASSADOR GATES

REFS: A. PEKING 144; B. PEKING 77; C. PEKING 112

1. WE ARE PLEASED THAT HUANG HUA TOOK YOU UP SO PROMPTLY ON YOUR DINNER INVITATION. IN ANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION YOU SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE VANCE JANUARY 8 STATEMENTS (STATE 5327) AND BY HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (TRANSMITTED BY WIRELESS FILE). YOU SHOULD, IN PARTICULAR REAFFIRM THAT OUR POLICY WILL CONTINUE TO BE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. YOU SHOULD MINIMIZE DISCUSSION OF THE LIKELY PACE OF NORMALIZATION, ALTHOUGH YOU MAY OF COURSE REFER TO THE VANCE TESTIMONY TO INDICATE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS ALREADY
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ADDRESSING THIS SUBJECT.

2. YOUR RECOMMENDATION REGARDING A PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO CHAIRMAN HUA HAS BEEN RECEIVING CLOSE ATTENTION, BUT A DECISION WILL NOT BE REACHED IN TIME FOR YOUR DINNER. INASMUCH AS THE CHINESE HAVE NOT SENT THE PRESIDENT A FORMAL CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE, WE ARE CONSIDERING

WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO HAVE AN

EARLY PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WITH HUANG CHEN. WE BELIEVE THAT THE VANCE STATEMENTS HAVE ALREADY HELPED ASSURE THE PRC CONCERNING THE DIRECTION OF OUR CHINA POLICY. IN ANY EVENT, WE ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH YOUR DESIRE TO KEEP OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRC ALIVE AND MOVING, A POINT WHICH YOU MAY MAKE TO HUANG HUA AT YOUR DINNER.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE CLAIMS/ASSETS QUESTION, WE AGREE THAT RECENT STATEMENTS BY CHINESE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING LI HSIEN-NIEN, PROVIDE THE STRONGEST INDICATION TO DATE OF PRC WILLINGNESS TO HANDLE THIS ISSUE SEPARATELY FROM NORMALIZATION MATTERS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS REPRESENTS A CHANGE OF POSITION ON THE CHINESE PART OR IS SIMPLY A REAFFIRMATION OF THE CHINESE POSITION, ON WHICH WE HAD RECEIVED AMBIGUOUS AND CONFLICTING SIGNALS IN THE PAST. WE OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE INTERESTED IF THE CHINESE VOLUNTEER ANYTHING ON THE SUBJECT. WE DO NOT WANT YOU TO INITIATE DISCUSSION BECAUSE OUR OWN POSITION WILL BE REEXAMINED AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF DETERMINING THE ADMINISTRATION'S BASIC APPROACH TO THE UNRESOLVED ISSUES IN OUR RELATIONS WITH PEKING.

HABIB

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Message Attributes

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